REMARKS

The amendment to the Specification was necessary to correct omission of sequence identifiers which occurred in the translation of the Specification from Japanese. Thus, amendments to the specification were required to identify the sequences by their sequence identification numbers.

Applicants have canceled claims 18 and 22-24 and added substitute claims 25-32. Claims 25-28 present the four alternative embodiments of original claim 18 in four separate claims and specifies the size of the previously claimed "part" of a sequence. Claim 29 presents the subject matter of original claim 23 in independent format and broadens the screening method to identifying an agent that modulates at least one activity of a protein comprising the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 30 presents the same scope for the screening method of original claim 23 (*i.e.*, identifying an agent which effects the regulation of cell differentiation). Claim 31 specifies that the cell expressing the protein is a human chondrocyte. This limitation represents a specific embodiment of the method which was not previously claimed. Claim 32 is drawn to the same kit as presented in original claim 22.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new prohibited matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment. While written description support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, specific support for these new dependent claims can be found as indicated in the following chart.

Claim No.	Support in Specification & Original Claims
25, 27	page 8, line 23 through page 9, line 3; original claims 5-6
26, 28	page 13, lines 2-13; original claim 3, 6
29-31	page 20, line 17 through page 21, line 14; original claims 9-10
32	page 21, lines 19-21; original claim 8

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this

application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **Constructive Petition for Extension of Time** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning page 23, line 9 has been amended as follows:

--For type II collagen: CATACCGGTAAGTGGGGAAGACTG (SEQ ID NO: 3),
TGCCCAGTTCAGGTCTCTTA (SEQ ID NO: 4)
For aggrecan: TGCTACTTCATCGACCCCAT (SEQ ID NO: 5),
AAAGACCTCACCCTCCATCT (SEQ ID NO: 6),
For CMP: GTCGATTACGTGGAGAGCTA (SEQ ID NO: 7),
ATGAACTTCTTCACCAGCTC (SEQ ID NO: 8),
For GAPDH: GTCAAGGCTGAGAACGGGAA (SEQ ID NO: 9),
TCCACCACCCTGTTGCTGTA (SEQ ID NO: 10),
For DEC1: ATCAGACCCAGCTCCCAAAG (SEQ ID NO: 11),
CACAGACCCAGCTCCCAAAC (SEQ ID NO: 12),
For CDEP: CCTTCAGGAAAACTCGTGTC (SEQ ID NO: 13),
TTGGAGTTGTGTGTGGTCAG (SEQ ID NO: 14),
For CDEP cDNA fragment: GCCAAAATAGTCACCTTCCACGAGG (SEQ ID NO: 15),
CCTTCAGGAAAACTCGTGTC (SEQ ID NO: 16),
AAACGRAAGAAYGTRTGRTGYTCWACACA (SEQ ID NO: 17),
TTCCAGCTCCTAGAGATTGC (SEQ ID NO: 18),
TCGTCTTCGCTCTCCTCAAT (SEQ ID NO: 19),
CGGGTAACAAGCAGGCGGACGGA (SEQ ID NO: 20).--

Paragraph beginning page 30, line 4 has been amended as follows:

--Reverse transcription was performed using the total RNA (0.5 μg) extract from the cartilage tissue, and amplication was carried out using an upstream specific primer (5'-TCACTTCGTGGTTTCAGAGC-3') (SEQ ID NO: 21) and a downstream specific primer (5'-TCGTCTTCGCTCTCCTCAAT-3') (SEQ ID NO: 22) that were designed based on the nucleotide sequence of CDEP to obtain a CDEP cDNA fragment. The conditions for the amplication reaction were set to carry out a denaturation reaction (95°C, 1 min), annealing and extension (65°C, 3 min), and 20 cycles of amplication were performed. The resulting DNA was electrophoresed for 15 minutes at 100 V on a 1% agarose gel.--